

SECRETDCI
INCOMING

02/ / ** FLASH **

FLASH

44 FRP: ,2,3, ,5, , ,8

STATE

25X1

82 9275172 SSZ

PAGE 001

NC 9275172

TOR: 190751Z AUG 82

ZZ RUEAIIB
 ZNY SSSSS ZOC STATE ZZH
 STU2092
 ZZ RUEHC
 DE RUEHTV #2609 2310732
 ZNY SSSSS ZZH ZZK
 Z 190730Z AUG 82 ZFF-4
 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7624
 RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH 0673
 BT
 S E C R E T TEL AVIV 12609

EXDIS

BEIRUT FOR HABIB

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PEPR, MILI, IS, US, LE, PLO, XF
 SUBJECT: HABIB MISSION: URGENT MESSAGE FROM BEGIN TO HABIB

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TELEPHONED ME AT 0830 LOCAL AUGUST 19 JUST BEFORE LEAVING FOR THIS MORNING'S SPECIAL CABINET MEETING. HE ASKED THAT I GET IN TOUCH WITH HABIB AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND OBTAIN FOR HIM CERTAIN FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS ON THE DEPARTURE PACKAGE. HE ASKED ME TO CONTACT HIM IF POSSIBLE BEFORE 10 A.M. WITH HABIB'S ANSWERS, ALTHOUGH I TOLD HIM I DOUBTED IF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. I DID ASSURE HIM OF SOME RESPONSE IN THE COURSE OF THE MORNING.

3. BEGIN'S FIRST POINT CONCERNS ARTICLE THREE ON THE UN OBSERVERS. HE ASKED THAT THE WORDING OF THIS ARTICLE BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE UN OBSERVER GROUP STATIONED IN THE BEIRUT AREA WILL CONTINUE THIS FUNCTION IN THAT AREA." (BEGIN MADE CLEAR THAT HIS POINT OBVIOUSLY IS TO HAVE THE PLAN REFLECT THE POSITION HE HAS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN WITH PHIL THAT THE PRESENT FORCE CAN CONTINUE BUT "SHOULD NOT MULTIPLY.")

4. HE THEN RAISED ARTICLE 22 CONCERNING SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT FROM BEIRUT. WE ARGUED OVER FAMILIAR GROUND AND I REMIND-ED HIM OF WHAT PHIL HAD SAID DURING HIS LAST VISIT ABOUT THE LIMITS OF PRESIDENT SARKIS' AUTHORITY TO REDEPLOY THE ADF. I THEN SAID THAT HABIB IS THOROUGHLY CONVINCED THAT THE SYRIANS WILL MOVE ON OUT OF LEBANON AND BACK TO SYRIA AFTER PERHAPS A BRIEF SOJOURN IN THE BEKAA. I SAID THAT PHIL COULD GIVE NO IRONCLAD ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT, NOR CAN IT BE INCLUDED IN THE DOCUMENT, BUT THIS IS HIS CON-VICTION. BEGIN THEN IMMEDIATELY ASKED IF HE COULD STATE THIS AS HABIB'S CONVICTION TO THE CABINET. I TOLD HIM THAT HE COULD. I HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD USE THIS "OUT" TO CLIMB DOWN OFF THE TREE WHICH HE MOUNTED DURING PHIL'S LAST VISIT, DESPITE EARLIER STATEMENTS BY SHARON AND KIMCHE TO HABIB THAT THEY HAD

SECRET

State Dept. review completed

SECRET

82 9275172

SSZ

PAGE 002

NC 9275172

TOR: 190751Z AUG 82

UNDERSTOOD THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE DESTINATION OF THE SYRIANS AND OF OTHER SYRIAN-RELATED FORCES. I HOPE RPT HOPE AND INDEED BELIEVE THAT BEGIN WILL NOW SWALLOW HARD AND ACCEPT THE LANGUAGE OF ARTICLE 22.

5. FINALLY, BEGIN RAISED YET ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE SENSITIVE QUESTION CONCERNING RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF ISRAELIS WHO FELL IN THE LITANI CAMPAIGN. READING THE ARTICLE OF THE PLAN WHICH DEALS WITH THE PRISONER AND THE BODIES, BEGIN NOTED THE "EITHER/OR" CONSTRUCTION OF THE SENTENCE CONCERNING REMAINS AND ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION. WILL THE PLO IDENTIFY PRECISELY THE LOCATION OF THE GRAVES OF THOSE SOLDIERS BURIED AFTER THE LITANI CAMPAIGN IN A WAY IN WHICH THEY CAN IMMEDIATELY BE EXHUMED, WILL THE REMAINS THEMSELVES BE TURNED OVER BEFORE SATURDAY, OR WILL THE ISRAELIS RECEIVE ONLY A GENERAL INDICATION OF THE AREA IN WHICH PERHAPS UNMARKED GRAVES LIE? IF THE LATTER IS THE CASE, BEGIN SAYS THEY SHOULD HAVE THE INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY ABOUT THE LOCATION. IF THEY ONLY ARE TOLD OF A GENERAL AREA AND THE GRAVES ARE UNMARKED, IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME AND A GOOD DEAL OF DIGGING TO LOCATE THE BURIAL SPOTS. BEGIN THEREFORE WANTS THE INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY IF THIS IS WHAT IS PLANNED. HE NATURALLY HOPES THAT PRECISE IDENTIFICATION OF THE GRAVES OR PHYSICAL DELIVERY OF THE REMAINS IS WHAT IS CONTEMPLATED. HIS ANXIETY ABOUT THIS IS APPARENTLY HEIGHTENED BY THE FACT THAT HE IS DUE TO MEET AT 12 O'CLOCK TODAY WITH THE FAMILIES OF THOSE SOLDIERS MISSING FROM THE LITANI CAMPAIGN WHOSE BODIES ARE PRESUMABLY INVOLVED.

6. I TOLD HIM THAT ON THIS LAST POINT, I DID NOT HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE HABIB COULD OBTAIN A QUICK ANSWER SINCE IT PRESUMABLY WOULD NEED CONTACT WITH THE PLO. HOWEVER, I WAS SURE THAT PHIL WOULD TRY TO GET A CLARIFICATION BACK AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT FOR HIM.

7. AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, BEGIN SAID THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THESE POINTS, "IT IS A GOOD DOCUMENT."

8. BEGIN ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DEEP GRATITUDE TO US AND ESPECIALLY TO PHIL HABIB FOR THE ASSURANCES HABIB WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN OVERNIGHT CONCERNING THE ISRAELI SOLDIER ABDUCTED LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON BY THE PLO. (AFTER TALKING TO HILL LATE LAST NIGHT AND RELAYING THIS PROBLEM TO HABIB VIA HILL, I WAS NOTIFIED BY THE LWG EARLY THIS MORNING THAT GENERAL KURAYTIM ASSURED HABIB THAT THIS SOLDIER WOULD BE RELEASED ALONG WITH THE ISRAELI PILOT ALREADY IN CUSTODY. I HAD PASSED THIS GOOD NEWS ALONG TO BEGIN THROUGH KIMCHE AT ABOUT 0630 THIS MORNING.)

9. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. LEWIS
END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

SECRET